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Eliot has contributed to the *New York Times* small articles dealing with the progress of the war, the bearing of its problems on this country, and the lessons to be learned. These small essays make up the body of his book, though several addresses delivered both before and after August, 1914, are also included. Dr. Eliot is strongly pro-Ally, but his acknowledged preferences do not limit his ability to see to the bottom of the matters he discusses, and since he takes up practically every phase of the war, in their present collected form his writings make a most readable and valuable history of the eventful year recently closed. His ardent pacifism, coupled with his interest in the formation of an international navy strong enough to enforce obedience to an ever-growing body of international law, runs through all the chapters. While there is nothing essentially new in the ground he covers, the matters he discusses are treated in such a scholarly, clear-sighted way that it does not seem probable a better treatment of the questions involved will appear for some time, and when it does we shall still have a first-hand account of real importance.

W. S. RUSK.

THE RIVET IN GRANDFATHER'S NECK. By James Branch Cabell. New York: Robert M. McBride & Company. \$1.35 net.

The author calls his book "a comedy of limitations," and yet it is far more of a tragedy, unless we look at it from the ironical, almost cynical point of view of Mr. Cabell himself. Though to judge from his name, he is a scion of some of the old families of Virginia, it is clear that he has grown tired of the over-idealization of the South, for he lays bare with clever strokes and unsparing pen the deadening conservatism, the unyielding prejudices, the complacent self-satisfaction of the Old South, not hesitating even in his iconoclastic mood to retouch with impious hand the traditional portrait of the 'famous Southern beauty.' "Nothing," declares one of his women characters, "was expected of us save to be beautiful and to condescend to be made much of, and that is our tragedy." The reaction is a natural one, and yet one feels that the author here and elsewhere in the book has voiced his discontent with almost too brutal frankness, in spite of the fact that he puts the criticism in the mouth of a woman.

Mr. Cabell, however, would not have us consider him as a wanton idol-breaker, a radical scorner of tradition, but as one who would substitute a saner, more common-sense view of the past and its achievements. Nevertheless, with all its ease and brilliance, the book leaves a distinctly disagreeable impression. There is a hardness of outline, a want of sympathy, a sardonic humor, all of which arouses antagonism or leads to a hopeless view of the future.

ESSAYS IN SOCIAL JUSTICE. By Thomas Nixon Carver. Cambridge: Harvard University Press. 1915. Pp. vii + 429. \$2.00.

Under this somewhat alluring title of *Essays in Social Justice* Professor Carver has given us a series of articles which are fundamentally discussions of economic theory. Those who expect any description of our social and ethical relations which is easy and pleasant to read will be disappointed. The book is unsuited for anyone who is not willing to bring it to clear and consecutive thinking.

The author has performed at least two valuable services in this work. He has developed an objective concept of social justice which challenges the too-prevalent sentimental morality of the time. And he has described the relations between economics and ethics in a way which will provoke vigorous thought, whatever may be the attitude of mind of the reader toward the author's opinion. Both these services meet a need of the present time when economic and ethical relations are becoming more and more interwoven.

Some of Professor Carver's fundamental concepts will call forth a sturdy protest. The theory that our moral ideals and our social, political, and legal institutions are grouped around the idea of economic scarcity does not seem to leave much room for spiritual and ideal forces in our civilization. The theory that practically identifies qualities insuring survival with moral qualities has not said the final word until, at least, there is a re-defining of terms. At times the words of the author seem perilously close to upholding materialism. For those readers to whom such views are disquieting the excellent qualities of the book will be dulled or lost.

JAMES G. STEVENS.